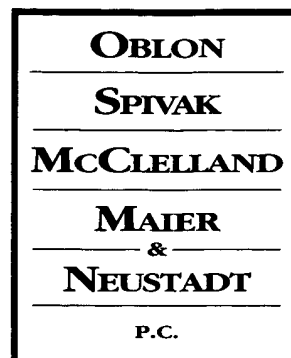


RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.118-  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING  
GROUP 2174



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Group: 2174  
Examiner: LUU  
Our Ref: 0557-4557-2

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Re: Inventor: Hiroshi MORIKAWA  
Serial No. 09/219,890  
Filed: December 24, 1998  
For: OPERATION UNIT FOR AN IMAGE  
FORMING APPARATUS

SIR:

Received  
DEC 18 2002  
Technology Center 2100

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION (AFTER FINAL)  
CERTIFIED ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Our check in the amount of \$ 0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 CFR 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory J. Maier", written over a horizontal line.

Gregory J. Maier  
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22850

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0557-4557-2

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING  
GROUP 2174

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

HIROSHI MORIKAWA

SERIAL NO.: 09/219,890

FILED: DECEMBER 24, 1998

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2174

:

: EXAMINER: LUU, S.

*AF*  
*#15*

FOR: OPERATION UNIT FOR AN IMAGE  
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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

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DEC 18 2002

Technology Center 2100

*OK*  
*TO ENTER*  
*SL*  
*12/30/02*

In response to the Office Action dated September 18, 2002, Applicant requests reconsideration of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is presently active. In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,880,851 to Imada (hereinafter "the '851 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,023,593 to Tomidokoro (hereinafter "the '593 patent"), U.S. Patent No. 4,619,514 to Ide (hereinafter "the '514 patent"), U.S. Patent No. 4,448,515 to Ishikawa (hereinafter "the '515 patent"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,353,482 B1 to Abe et al. (hereinafter "the '482 patent").

The '593 patent has an effective reference date under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of June 10,